[29th January 1934

(c) if any efforts are made to organize the panchayats as soon as possible, which the agency is through whom such efforts are made, and what the method of procedure is?

A.—(a) Yes; by educative propaganda.

(b) Primarily the villagers concerned should take the initiative by expressing their willingness to have a panchayat and to work it properly. The authorities set up for the purpose will do the rest.

(c) Every effort is being made to organize as many panchayats as possible consistently with sound policy and the possibility of effective control. District panchayat officers are the main agency; the procedure is that prescribed in the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920.

VI.—ACT ASSENTED TO BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—" I have to announce that the Madras Forest (Amendment) Act, 1933, received the assent of His Excellency the Governor on the 11th December 1933."

VII.—FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR 1933-34.

* The hon. Sir HOPETOUN STOKES:—" Sir, I beg to move that—

'*with a view to the filling up of the vacancy in the Standing Finance Committee caused by reason of the resignation by Mr. W. O. Wright of his seat in the Committee, this Council do proceed to elect a member of the said Committee*'."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" I second it."

The motion was put and carried.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—" I have to inform the House that with reference to Regulation 2 of the Regulations for holding of elections by means of the single transferable vote, I fix 3 p.m. to-day as the time by which nominations of candidates for election of a member to the Finance Committee should be sent to the Secretary."

VIII.—DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS FOR 1933-34.

GRANT VI—IRRIGATION (EXCLUDING CAUVERY-METTUR PROJECT)—RESERVED.

* The hon. Sir ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL:—" On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that—

'*the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 200 under Grant VI—Irrigation (excluding Cauvery-Mettur Project)—Reserved.*'

" This sum of Rs. 200 is intended to cover two items, Rs. 100 being for the closing of the Nethiletivarava breach in the Tsallacalva and

29th January 1934] [Sir Archibald Campbell]

increasing its flood water way below, and the second Rs. 100 being for the extension of the north and south embankments of the Polavaram Island and constructing outfall sluices for drains.

" The reasons for these two items are explained in some detail in the note which has been placed before the House. The first item relates to the Swarnamukhi river which at a certain point divides itself into two parts, one part going down the main Swarnamukhi river, the other part going through a branch called the Tsallacalva. In recent years, the water passing through the Tsallacalva has increased to such an extent that it has breached its banks in various places and has caused a considerable amount of damage. We have not been able to take up the repair of this work up to now on account of a dispute with the Venkatagiri samasthanam regarding the distribution of water a little higher up the Swarnamukhi river. That dispute has now been satisfactorily settled. We now propose to close the main breach in the Tsallacalva and put back the banks and in that way to stop any further trouble on this account. The ryots have offered to provide the land that is necessary for this work. We hope that by this means we shall prevent the submersion of the 400 acres of wet and dry lands and the partial submersion of a portion of further area of 800 acres, and also to get back by reclamation an area of 232 acres which has been covered by sand owing to the floods flowing through the breach.

" The total cost of works is estimated at Rs. 59,300, of which 12 noon.
Rs. 7,000 is the cost of acquisition of land and this amount will be paid by the ryots concerned. If this grant is made we hope to be able to spend some Rs. 6,000 in the current year, if the work is started at once.

" The second item relates to the extension of the flood bank of the Polavaram Island. The Polavaram Island Project has been carried out in recent years, but the flood bank was not constructed for about six miles, as it was hoped that the flood bank which was constructed might be sufficient for the purpose. This anticipation has been found to be unjustified. I may mention that in the recent floods, the Godavari water backed up through this gap to the flood bank and the result was that out of 7,000 acres of land brought under cultivation 800 acres of standing crop were destroyed and about 1,500 acres of crop were partially destroyed. If the bank is constructed as proposed and suitable drainage outfall shutters are provided damage of this kind will be minimized. This demand is brought forward as a new scheme, as the work was not contemplated in the original estimate. The total cost of the work will be nearly Rs. 60,000 and if the grant is made now we hope to begin the work in the current year and to spend about Rs. 3,000."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I second the motion."

The demand was put and carried and the grant made.

[29th January 1934

GRANT VII—IRRIGATION (CAUVERY-METTUR PROJECT)—RESERVED.

* The hon. Sir ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL:—" Mr. President, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move—

> ' *that Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs.* 200 *under Grant VII—Irrigation—Cauvery-Mettur Project—Reserved.*'

" Sir, this sum of Rs. 200 covers two items, Rs. 100 for providing a surplus escape on the F. Saddle on the right bank of the Cauvery at Mettur and another Rs. 100 to provide for the construction of a pavilion near ' Mullings seat ' with an approach road and for laying out a landscape garden and park below the dam. As regards the first, it was at one time thought that the surplus arrangement made on the left bank over the Ellis Saddle would be sufficient, but it was always contemplated that if that were not sufficient, an escape might be provided on the other side of the river on what is known as the F. Saddle. On a careful examination and consideration, it has been thought advisable, as a measure of abundant caution, that we should now lower the F. Saddle, reducing it to 791 feet—and the top of the dam being 802 including the parapet—so as to allow the water to flow over the saddle on a lower level; and that the necessary arrangements should be made for controlling the flow of water over the saddle. The estimated cost of the work is in the neighbourhood of two lakhs of rupees —the actual detailed estimates are not yet ready and this is only a rough amount—and we are anxious to get on with the work as soon as possible during this year as the dam is nearing completion. I trust the House will be good enough to sanction this grant.

" The second proposal is also not provided for in the original estimate. Hon. Members who have visited Mettur may remember ' Mullings seat '—a seat called after the Chief Engineer Mr. Mullings—from which an excellent view of the dam and the reservoir can be obtained. It is now proposed to construct in the immediate vicinity just a few yards of it, a permanent pavilion which will be hexagonal in shape: on three sides there will be windows and on the other three there will be inscriptions giving particulars of the dam and the project generally and also the names of persons concerned in the construction of the work. It will be possible for visitors to obtain a very fine view of the dam and the reservoir from this pavilion. It is also proposed to lay out the ground immediately below the dam on the right side of the river as a park; the portion of the left side is reserved for hydro-electric works and we do not propose to make any arrangements there at present. The park which is now proposed can be easily irrigated with water from the reservoir. It is proposed to plant in this park fruit trees like mango and coconut. The proposed work will not involve any increase in the permanent establishment to be maintained at Mettur. It will be necessary in any case to have a staff of lascars under a responsible officer to manipulate the sluices, etc., and they will also look after the park. We hope that the produce from the fruit-trees will bring in an appreciable income. I am sure, Sir, that hon.

29th January 1934] [Sir Archibald Campbell]

Members in this House would like to see that this work is kept in a suitable manner to maintain the prestige and the dignity of this Presidency."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" I second it."

* Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—" Mr. President, Sir, I move—

'*to reduce the allotment of Rs.* 200 *under Grant VII—Irrigation—Cauvery-Mettur Project—Reserved, by Re.* 1.'

" Sir, with regard to the first item, as a layman I cannot say anything. With regard to the second item, I have to say a few words, as I believe that in times like this when every pie that the Government could afford to save ought to be spent for relieving the burden of the ryot, that such a large amount should be spent on the pavilion, etc., is absolutely undesirable. I am one of those who have gone and visited the Mettur Dam, though at present I am not in a position to locate where this Mullings seat is. I thought, Sir, that the big Cauvery-Mettur Project is a memorial in itself and no other memorial would be necessary for perpetuating the memory of this project. All honour to those persons who have conceived the idea of having a project there and who planned it and carried it through. At the same time, I do not think it necessary to have a permanent pavilion for perpetuating their memory. Any tablet fixed anywhere there is good enough for the purpose of perpetuating the memory of those who were responsible for the project. Though a sum of Rs. 40,000 seems such a small amount when you consider the amount spent on this project, I consider it to be absolutely unnecessary, especially at a time when Government ought not to embark on luxurious schemes.

" It is said that, if there is a permanent pavilion, visitors can have a beautiful idea of the project and that they could be protected from sun and rain. I have myself seen the place and visitors can certainly have a view of the project from any place and no visitor would like to sit in one place to have a view and they would not mind walking in the sun during the few hours of their stay there and it would not rain always.

" With regard to the other item, when we have a memorial pavilion there should also be a road leading to it, the cost for which is estimated at Rs. 8,600. I have seen the roads in Mettur and they are certainly very good at present and when one considers how money is being spent by Government—or rather wasted—on these beautiful roads which are very rarely used, one shudders at the way, Government spend ryots' money.

" The next item looks as if Government are launching on a remunerative enterprise by planting mango and coconut trees in the landscape garden. I think it is a bait to get the landscape garden. I think there is no necessity to spend Rs. 22,000 on this landscape garden especially at this moment when we are faced with depression and when Government have practically refused relief to the ryot. Having had some knowledge of the remunerative enterprises of the Government, I do not think that they can work this coconut and manage

[Mr. K. Koti Reddi] [29th January 1934

tope on a remunerative basis. However, I do not think there is at present any necessity for a landscape garden. The view is beautiful and apart from any artificial garden, visitors can enjoy the scenery all the same.

" For all these reasons, I hope Government will think twice before they embark on a scheme of this kind costing Rs. 48,000. Further this item was not contemplated in the original estimate and it is absolutely unnecessary to have a sort of memorial and a landscape garden at such a huge cost."

12-15 p.m. Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" Mr. President, Sir, as one who has always been admiring beautiful scenery and beautiful parks particularly after my visit to the Kannambadi Dam at Mysore, I think, Sir, it will certainly add to the beauty of the locality if a nice and beautiful looking park is put up near the Mettur Dam. But, certainly, Sir, the argument that every one of us is aware, that these are days of retrenchment is there and we have to consider whether this is a very necessary and essential service to spend such a huge sum as Rs. 22,000 for a park. Probably, Sir, every member would agree, as I do, with what the hon. Member for Cuddapah has said, viz., that more urgent and important items in Part II schemes have been turned down by the Finance Committee. There are several small items of which I have come to understand one only because the proceedings of the Finance Committee have not been communicated to us. Among them one important item in which this Council is very much interested has not been sanctioned although the department put up the proposal and it was accepted by the Law Department because it concerned the Legislative Council and did not involve a very large sum. But such an item could not be recommended by the Finance Committee. I now ask, is it necessary and urgent that we should invest a huge sum like Rs. 22,000 for a park in Mettur? No doubt, the laying out of a park will be a great improvement and will be a very good improvement to the site now. But I consider, Sir, that such a thing should as well wait till more urgent things are taken up and completed. Before this investment is going to be made, I would like to ask the hon. the Revenue Member as to how he wants to dispose of the buildings that have been erected. There are very large buildings and very good buildings, well-built constructions which can be put to use in the interests of the general welfare of the public and the money that has been invested on these buildings could be well utilized. I would like to know what schemes the Government have before them to dispose of these buildings. I suggest, Sir, and I hope Government will accept my suggestion, that the best thing to which these buildings could be used will be that they should start some industrial concern in that area. The dam is already going to be improved to produce electricity in the locality and we need not go in for electricity elsewhere. When electricity could be produced and when there is such a huge site, I do not see why the Government should not launch upon an enterprise which will add to the material wealth of the country. If the Government, Sir, has any such schemes to industrialize that place by

29th January 1934] [Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed]

starting new industries and investing small capital and after working that enterprise transfer it to private people, it would be a very useful thing in the interests of the country. If for any reason Government are not able to invest any capital in starting any industry and industrializing Mettur, may I suggest to the hon. the Revenue Member that he should consult the Public Health Department and the municipalities all over the Presidency and ask them as to whether they are willing to have that centre near Mettur buildings of an asylum or sanatorium for lepers. They may be put to two uses. Firstly, the place may be made an asylum for lepers or may be used as a sanatorium for tuberculosis patients. I am not a doctor and I am not in a position to say which will be more suitable for the locality. I suggest that in the absence of any good accommodation in the Tirumani Leper Settlement and in view of the very large lepers in the city, nay, all over the Presidency, these buildings round Mettur will be an ideal place for accommodating lepers. The municipalities can be asked to contribute their quota and send . . ."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—" I am afraid the hon. Member has raised a question which is not within the scope of the Demand."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" Among the improvements to the existing Mettur Dam, they propose to construct and invest more money for laying the park. I want to know, Sir, how they are going to put the buildings to use. Before the hon. the Revenue Member replies, I would like to give some suggestions about the disposal of the building."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—" I think that question will have to be raised in a different connexion altogether. I do not think it will be in order to raise the larger question now."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" I have been merely asking as to how the surrounding buildings at the Mettur Dam that are available are going to be disposed of, and whether Government would be prepared to consider any proposals by municipalities or the representatives of the various districts in this Council for putting up a sanatorium for the Tirumani patients."

* Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—" I support the motion made by the hon. the Revenue Member and oppose the amendment moved by my hon. Friend from Cuddapah. Crores of rupees have been spent on the Mettur Dam. It has been considered the grandest engineering feat, not only of India but also of the whole world. Many people pay a visit from different parts of the world. When they do so, our Mettur Dam should not stand like a mummy, mute and inarticulate. It should speak through this pavilion. In one wall of the pavilion, there will be an inscription about the inception, completion and the inauguration. In another wall will be inscribed the size, the height and the cost of the dam. The conception, the inception, the completion and the inauguration are necessary information which one would like to know about. These things we will be leaving to posterity. This dam was undertaken out of capital account for which posterity is liable and so, posterity requires these kinds of information. Again, when people,

[Mr. C. Natesa Mudaliyar] [29th January 1934

perhaps great engineers, from all over the world go there, they should have sufficient information and at the same time complete view of the whole works. This they can do from this pavilion. Then, with regard to the garden, there is already water there, and so, if ratepayers' money is spent there, it is in the interests of the ratepayers and nothing else. So I strongly support the proposal and request my friend to withdraw his motion so that we may have a beautiful adjunct and a desirable finish to the dam."

* The hon. Sir ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL :—" I am glad that my hon. Friend, Mr. Natesa Mudaliyar, has drawn attention to the fact that many visitors from all parts of the world would like to come and visit Mettur. I am not sure if hon. Members realize that the Mettur Dam is one of the greatest engineering works ever carried out. I have got figures here of a few important dams in this country and also elsewhere. Mettur will not be the highest dam nor will it be the longest one ever constructed, but I believe that it will be, at the time of completion, the largest piece of masonry in the world. Of the dams of which I have figures here, there is only one dam which is higher. The average height of the Mettur Dam is 220 feet. The only dam which is higher is the Roosevelt Dam in America which is 284 feet in height. On the other hand, the length of the Mettur Dam is almost exactly one mile, about 5,300 feet, while the Roosevelt Dam is 1,080 feet long. It is therefore considerably smaller. The Assuan Dam is 112 feet high and 6,400 feet long; it is, therefore longer than the Mettur Dam, but its cubical contents are considerably less. The cubical contents of the Roosevelt Dam are only 9·18 million cubic feet, and that of the Assuan Dam are 30·20 million cubic feet. The contents of the Mettur will be 54·67 million cubic feet, 50 per cent at least more than that of the biggest dam ever constructed hitherto. Then we may consider the capacity of the reservoir. The Roosevelt is the largest artificial reservoir hitherto constructed with a capacity of 67,200 million cubic feet. The Mettur reservoir will have a capacity of 93,500 million cubic feet. It is true that at present there is under construction, I believe, in America a dam which will be larger in every way, namely, the Hoover Dam. I think there can be no doubt that engineers of all countries in the world will come to visit Mettur. Also visitors to India will, if possible, include Mettur in their tour. It seems to me, Sir, that it is most desirable therefore that the Mettur area should be maintained in a manner worthy of a great engineering work and also of this Presidency. The cost is comparatively small; we do not intend to spend as much on the park as has been spent on the beautiful park under the Krishnaraja Sagara Dam to which my hon. Friend, Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed, referred. We are very modest in our demands; we expect, moreover, that we shall get some return on our outlay. I think, Sir, therefore, that hon. Members will agree that it is most desirable that this work should be carried out.

" I will say one or two words in reply to Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed's request for information as to what we are going to do with the buildings, etc., at Mettur. That is a matter which has been engaging our

29th January 1934] [Sir Archibald Campbell]

attention for some years, and as hon. Members may remember we had a pamphlet drawn of which I have got a copy here about the industrial possibilities at Mettur. Copies of this pamphlet were distributed to every Member of this Council and to various Chambers of Commerce and to others likely to be interested. Copies were sent to the High Commissioner for India in London for distribution to persons interested in industries there. Government do not want to start industries themselves. They prefer to leave the development of industries to private undertakings.

"But there is no doubt that there are great possibilities for industrial development at Mettur. One or two persons are already making enquiries with the object of starting industries there. It is most desirable that any industries that may be in view should be started without further delay, as the dam will be completed within another six months. Already a number of lines for coolies are vacant and we are having requests from the Superintendent of the Works for orders whether he may pull down those lines, but so far we have left them alone as they may be useful for some industry or other. We have already established there protected water-supply, underground drainage works, roads and buildings; anti-malarial measures are in operation and there are hospitals and schools. Everything is there. If some industries are to be started there, these buildings need not be dismantled but their value can be credited to the Mettur Project. I am most anxious that that should be done. It will certainly be agreed on all hands that it is very desirable that we should carefully consider whether anything can be done for the establishment of industries at Mettur. 12-30 p.m.

"My hon. Friend also stated that possibly the Government might make use of these buildings for a tuberculosis or leper settlement. I may mention that about two years ago we asked all heads of departments whether they could make any use of any portion of the Mettur buildings and the only reply we had, I think, was for a building or two for the Fisheries Department for a small staff. The question of utilizing the settlement or a portion of it for a leper settlement has, I believe, been under consideration and owing to financial stringency or for some other reason, it has not been possible for the Government to take up the proposal. Lastly, Sir, I may say, that the matter is most urgent and I will ask all the departments to reconsider the question."

Mr. K. Koti Reddi:—"Although I am not convinced by the hon. Member's reply, I withdraw the motion."

The cut motion was by leave withdrawn.

The demand was then put and carried and the grant was made.

GRANT XI—MINISTERS, CIVIL SECRETARIATS AND MISCELLANEOUS— TRANSFERRED.

* The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"Mr. President, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move—

'*that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 5,000 under Grant XI—Ministers, Civil Secretariats and Miscellaneous—Transferred.*'